

13. An indicator for plasma sterilization according to claim 8, wherein a polyphenol compound is used as a discoloration preventing agent for a pigment colored by a hydrogen peroxide plasma sterilization method.

14. An indicator for plasma sterilization according to claim 9, wherein a polyphenol compound is used as a discoloration preventing agent for a pigment colored by a hydrogen peroxide plasma sterilization method.

15. An indicator for plasma sterilization according to claim 11, wherein a polyphenol compound is used as a discoloration preventing agent for a pigment colored by a hydrogen peroxide plasma sterilization method.

REMARKS:

The claims in the application are 6-15.

Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended on the basis of the Article 19 amendments in the priority PCT application to eliminate all multiple dependencies. The specification has also been amended to correct all subtitles with the abstract formally inserted.

Referring to the International Search Report, (copy enclosed) in the above-identified PCT application, in Claim 6, it is made clear that a colorless fluoran pigment is used as a pigment the color of which may change wherein the pigment is colored through the change into the colored type of pigment structure due to ring-opening of the lactone ring in the pigment molecule by the cooperative action of a coloring assistant and hydrogen peroxide during sterilization.

In cited reference 1, a phenylmethane basic pigment or a cyanine basic pigment which is a colored pigment is used as a pigment the color of which may change wherein in principle the pigment loses color through oxidative degradation and disappearance by the cooperative action of a coloring assistant and hydrogen peroxide during sterilization. Therefore, cited reference 1 is different from the invention of the present application with respect to the principle, in itself, of a change in color.

In both cited reference 2 and cited reference 3, a fluoran compound is used as an electron-donating chromogenic compound. As for the detection compound for detecting a gaseous substance of cited reference 2, a fluoran electron-donating type coloring compound which is contained in colored state from the first stage in combination with a nonvolatile developer, loses color due to the presence of a specific gaseous substance.

On the other hand, as for the detection resin composition and the compact thereof of reference 3, coloration of the fluoran electron-donating chromogenic compound occurs on contact with the vapor of an electron-accepting substance (an acidic substance) to be detected, and the pigment colored by the vapor returns to a colorless state due to evaporation of the vapor from the pigment.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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